

REMARKS

Entry of this Amendment in accordance with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.116, and reconsideration and allowance of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

This Amendment is in response to the Final Office Action dated December 7, 2007. Appreciation is expressed to the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in the dependent claims 26 and 29.

By the present amendment, independent claim 24 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 25 and 26 therein. Similarly, independent claim 27 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of dependent claims 28 and 29 therein. In light of the indication of allowable subject matter in the previous dependent claims 26 and 29 (now respectively incorporated into their parent claims), it is respectfully submitted that the independent claims 24 and 27 are now in condition for allowance, by virtue of containing the indicated allowable subject matter. Therefore, entry of this amendment and allowance of this application is earnestly solicited.

With regard to this, entry of the Amendment is requested under the provisions of 37 CFR §1.116, notwithstanding the finality of the Office Action. Under the provisions of 37 CFR §1.116, entry of an Amendment After Final Rejection is permissible if the Amendment is for purposes of adopting suggestions made by the Examiner for allowance of the application. In the present instance, paragraph 6 of the Office Action has indicated that the claims would be allowable if the subject matter of claims


26 and 29 were re-written into independent form. Inasmuch as the present Amendment does this by incorporating the subject matter of the dependent claims into their parent independent claims, it is respectfully submitted that this amendment does adopt the Examiner's suggestions for rewriting the claims to obtain allowable subject matter. Therefore, entry of this Amendment and allowance of the independent claims 24 and 27, together with their respective dependent claims 18, 19 and 21-23 is earnestly solicited.

It is noted that the present Amendment is submitted without prejudice to the applicants right to proceed with the subject matter of the original unamended claims 24 and 27, or other claims, by way of a continuation application or, in the case of the non-elected claims, a divisional application.

If the Examiner believes that there are any other points which may be clarified or otherwise disposed of either by telephone discussion or by personal interview, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Docket No. 500.45763X00), and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP

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